

A2012-56

December 5, 2011

1805 B. Avenue  
Rippey, Iowa  
50235

RECEIVED

2011 DEC 14 P 2:00

Ruth Y. Goldway, Chairperson  
Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Avenue, NW Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20268

POSTAL REGULATORY  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Ms. Goldway:

This letter should be considered a "participant statement" regarding an appeal of the Postal Service's determination to discontinue the Rippey Post Office at Rippey, Iowa. This appeal has been assigned "docket number A2012-56". The original docket number was 1379407-50235.

Items number 1 and 2 as follows reflects the USPS failure to complete the closing of post offices procedures as required by law;

1. As stated in the letter submitted October 24, 2011 the document submitted and posted at the Rippey Post Office on October 20, 2011 failed to recognize the congressional responses presented on behalf of the Rippey Post Office. I referenced those documentation letters to Angie Green on June 7<sup>th</sup>. I did submit all communication from Iowa Senator's Harkin and Grassley as well as Congressman Latham with the October letter. It is unfortunate the Congressional letters were not recognized.
2. While the USPS had not provided formal notification of closure, the telephone number was not listed in the phone book that was released in the community in October of 2011. This demonstrates this decision to close was previously determined. I submit to you the community input hearing; the petitions, the letters, etc. have all been completed in vain as the USPS had no intention of recognizing the 175 signatures or taking into account the opinions voiced by the 59 customers who attended the public hearing on May 25, 2011.

Item 3 reflects "unsupported substantial evidence on the record" regarding provision of services.

3. The change in postal services for the numerous elderly citizens of the town will be a hardship. While it may be documented on paper to be "no change of services", it is not realistic to believe that any postal patron will wait by the cluster boxes for the carrier to arrive during an Iowa winter. Any person sending a package, seeking a money order, or wishing to purchase stamps during an exchange outside of a building will be uncomfortably exposed to a Midwestern winter weather when wind chills quite frequently dip to below zero.

It is worrisome that as the elderly frequently receive medications by mail, that they will now be exposed to freezing as well as extreme heat conditions in the cluster boxes. This is to be viewed as a health concern.

Number 4 references the economic savings to the Postal Service. It is recognized the postal service needs to cut costs, but I submit the following:

4. The annual lease of the building at a cost of \$19,200 per year could be negotiated to a lower amount. This is an extremely high rate, compared to other rental costs within the town. The erection cluster boxes could be negated by retaining the building and using the post offices boxes housed in the current building. The recognition to keep the service window open shorter hours to aid the USPS in saving funds would be considered commendable as well as acceptable. The reduction of the \$44,000 per year salary could be lowered by having the officer in charge move from Rippey to a neighboring post office, rather than asking the current 75 box holders to travel for purchases and services. The service window being open for two hours would provide a minimum, but acceptable service for the community.
5. The environmental impact associated with the closing of the Rippey Post Office, will include construction costs of the cluster boxes, along with the travel to nearby communities to obtain services. The suggested Grand Junction, Iowa Post Office is 14 miles round trip.

A partial service window could certainly be accomplished with a bit of creativity and ingenuity from the USPS. This concession could be considered as negotiation from the USPS, and will win favor and kudos with the general public.

I close this appeal letter by requesting a plea for a common sense approach to sharing of postal office services with an adjoining community.

Sincerely yours,



Mary Weaver  
Postal Patron  
Rippey, Iowa

Cc    Senator Tom Harkin  
      Senator Charles Grassley  
      Congressman Tom Latham  
      Rippey Post Office Lobby Bulletin Board